



A nonpartisan research and public policy office of the Connecticut General Assembly

Testimony of

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Connecticut Commission on Aging

Aging Committee

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As you know, the Connecticut Commission on Aging is the nonpartisan state agency devoted to preparing Connecticut for a significantly changed demographic and enhancing the lives of the present and future generations of older adults. For almost twenty years, the Commission has served as an effective leader in statewide efforts to promote choice, independence and dignity for Connecticut's older adults and persons with disabilities. I'd like to thank this committee for its ongoing leadership and collaboration in these efforts.

Raised Bill No. 5337, "An Act Establishing A Task Force to Evaluate the Utility of Creating A Public Retirement Plan."

Re Item (f) in the bill: "The administrative staff of the Commission on Aging shall serve as administrative staff of the task force." I very respectfully request that the Commission on Aging staff not be appointed to serve as administrative staff for this task force, as specified in the bill. (However, we would do believe that the CoA should have a seat on the task force as specified in item 12 of the bill.)

After careful consideration, we have concluded that the CoA does not possess the very specialized expertise necessary to effectively provide administrative support for this particular task force. Specifically, based on our experience in staffing the Grandparents' Visitation Rights Task Force (GVRTF) and in monitoring extensive testimony on RB 5337 during the Aging Committee's public hearing this morning, we believe the person(s) providing administrative support should be highly conversant and knowledgeable in the following areas, at a minimum:

- **The legal, fiduciary and administrative framework embodied in operating both public and private sector pension plans.**
- **An in-depth knowledge of the numerous investment options currently offered employees in both public and private sector plans.**
- **An understanding of the fundamental technology required to operate the state pension fund system and emerging technological trends.**
- **At minimum, a basic knowledge of the legal, fiduciary and fiscal implications of merging public and private sector plans.**

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As mentioned, we know from months of hands-on experience in staffing the GVRTF, that subject-matter knowledge is critically important in providing administrative support for a legislative task force. While the work on the grandparents' panel was clearly germane to the CoA's statutorily mandated mission (and we therefore possessed the knowledge to effectively serve as administrator), this task force requires a fundamentally different skill set.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment. We look forward to our continued work with you.